

**Amendments to the Specification**

**In the Specification:**

Before paragraph [0002] please insert the heading --BACKGROUND--.

Before paragraph [0007], please insert the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0012] It is, therefore, ~~the an~~ object of the present invention to ~~devise provide~~ a 4Pi microscope having enhanced excitation and/or detection efficiency.

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0008] ~~This objective is achieved by~~ The present invention provides a 4Pi microscope in which a reflecting means is provided that reflects the illuminating light coupled out by the optical element back into the interferometer and/or allows the detected light coupled out by the optical element and directed into the detection beam path to pass through, and another outcoupled detected light portion that is not directed into the detection beam path to be reflected back into the interferometer.

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0012] In one ~~espeially~~ preferred embodiment, the reflecting means has color-selective reflecting properties. In this embodiment, a different reflection factor, or reflectance, may be provided for light of the wavelength of the excitation light and for light of the wavelength of the detected light.

Before paragraph [0016], please insert the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0016] The subject matter of the present invention is schematically illustrated in the drawing and is described below with reference to the figure, elements having essentially equivalent functions being denoted by the same reference numerals. In this context, the only elaborated upon below based on an exemplary embodiment with reference to the drawing.

Before paragraph [0018], please insert the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION--.